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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/616,369	07/09/2003	Nobuo Osaka	Yoshida.7138	1239
55740	7590	09/06/2007	EXAMINER	
GAUTHIER & CONNORS, LLP			AHLUWALIA, NAVNEET K	
225 FRANKLIN STREET			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 2300			2166	
BOSTON, MA 02110			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/616,369	OSAKA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Navneet K. Ahluwalia	2166	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 14 – 19 and 21 – 23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 14 – 19 and 21 – 23 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to the Amendment filed 06/21/2007.

Response to Arguments

2. Claims 14 – 19 and 21 – 23 are pending in this Office Action. After a further search and a thorough examination of the present application, claims 14 – 19 and 21 – 23 remain rejected.
3. Applicant's arguments filed with respect to claims 14 – 19 and 21 – 23 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

First, Applicant argues that there is no teaching in Mohi of denying information concerning a sought person included in the operation instruction content stored in the storage area in accordance with an instruction acquired from the instruction acquired from the instruction center.

In response to Applicant's argument, the Examiner submits that Mohi teaches the denying of information concerning a sought person included in the operation instruction in accordance with an instruction acquired from the instruction center. This is clearly stated in paragraph 116 of Mohi where it states that the privacy issue does not affect rovers in applications where they are placed on individuals where privacy is not required, so these can be searched and tracked but security can be a concern in some regards. To keep to the secure measures among other solutions there is a password

protect location transaction and if the password does not match the one with the center then access to the information is not provided.

Second, Applicant argues that there is no teaching in Mohi of a process for limiting access to information which is stored in the operation instruction terminal based on previously set condition and the center can control who is able to use the invention to search for the sought-after person and who may obtain information from the rover.

In response to Applicant's argument, the Examiner submits that Mohi teaches the limiting access to information which is stored in the operation instruction terminal based on previously set condition and the center can control who is able to use the invention to search for the sought after person and who may obtain information from the rover. This is clearly stated in paragraph 116 of Mohi where it states that information can be retrieved regarding rovers and if limited access is to be provided, amongst other solutions a password protection method is used. Furthermore, the Applicant is arguing regarding information from a rover, but a rover is not recited in the claims or the instant application

Third, Applicant argues that there is no teaching in Mohi or Joao's of security levels wherein as the search manager approaches closer to the sought person, sought person information having higher security levels are provided.

In response to Applicant's argument, the Examiner submits that Mohi teaches the security levels. This is clearly stated in paragraph 116 of Mohi where it states that

information can be retrieved regarding rovers and if limited access according to the security concerns is to be provided, amongst other solutions a password protection method is used. Furthermore, Joao discloses the further security levels in paragraphs 261 and 262.

Other claims recite the same subject matter and for the same reasons as cited above the rejection is maintained.

Hence, Applicant's arguments do not distinguish the claimed invention over the prior art of record. In light of the foregoing arguments, the 103 rejections are sustained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 14 – 19 and 21 – 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Mohi et al. ('Mohi' herein after) (US 2003/0195008 A1) further in view of Raymond Anthony Joao ('Joao' herein after) (US 2002/0121969).

With respect to claim 14,

Mohi discloses an operation instructing terminal, carried by an operations manager, the terminal comprising: means for acquiring operation instructions from an instruction center side (Figures 18, 19, Mohi);

- a storage section for storing acquired operation instruction content (Figure 18 elements 210 and 212, Mohi);
- means for presenting the acquired operation instruction content to the operations manager (Figure 18 and paragraph 0123, Mohi);
- means for collecting information relating to operating conditions of a terminal (Figure 18 interaction between element 200 and element 212, Mohi); and
- means for carrying out processing to make it impossible to refer to information about a sought person included in the operation instruction content stored in the storage section if the collected information related to operating conditions satisfies previously set operation stop conditions and (page 1 – 2 paragraphs 0020 and 0023, Mohi)
- means for carrying out processing to make it impossible to refer to information concerning a sought person included in the operation instruction content stored in the storage section, in accordance with an instruction acquired from the instruction center (page 1 – 2 paragraphs 0020 and 0023, Mohi).

Mohi however does not explicitly disclose the security and providing information according to conditions explicitly as claimed.

Joao teaches the security and providing information according to conditions (paragraphs 0261 and 0266, Joao).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because they are in the same field of invention, tracking and locating devices or a person. Furthermore, the added security levels taught by Joao would protect the information regarding the person/device being accessed by an unauthorized user (paragraphs 0261 and 0266, Joao).

6. Claim 21 is rejected under the same rationale given for claim 14. The citations of the elements claimed and taught are listed below.

With respect to claim 21,

Mohi as modified discloses the operation instructing terminal of claim 14, further comprising:

- a timer for clocking a time from a specified registration operation, the timer serving as the means for collecting information relating to operating conditions (paragraphs 0134 – 0135, Mohi); and
- a control section for determining whether or not the time clocked by the timer has exceeded a specified time and, if the specified time has elapsed (figures 18, 19 and paragraphs 0123 – 0124, Mohi), determining that the operation stop conditions are satisfied, and carrying out erasure processing for operation instruction information stored in the storage section to make it

impossible to refer to the information (page 3 paragraphs 0058 and 0059, Mohi).

With respect to claim 15,

Mohi discloses a search supporting system containing a center side device and a plurality of search supporting devices possessed by each search staff (Figure 18, Mohi), wherein: the center side device comprises:

- means for transmitting a search instruction to a specific search supporting terminal possessed by a search manager selected from among search staff managing a search of a person being sought (page 3 paragraph 0058, Mohi); and
- means for providing information about the sought person relating to a received search request only in response to a request from the specific search supporting device, wherein the search supporting devices comprise: means for receiving a search instruction from the center side device (Figures 18, 19 and paragraphs 0123 – 0124, Mohi); and
- means for setting the search supporting devices to be capable of requesting the center side device for information concerning the sought person only when the search instruction is received (page 3 paragraph 0059 lines 1 – 17, Mohi).

Mohi however does not explicitly disclose the security and providing information according to conditions explicitly as claimed.

Joao teaches the security and providing information according to conditions (paragraphs 0261 and 0266, Joao).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because they are in the same field of invention, tracking and locating devices or a person. Furthermore, the added security levels taught by Joao would protect the information regarding the person/device being accessed by an unauthorized user (paragraphs 0261 and 0266, Joao).

7. Claims 17, 18, 22 and 23 are rejected under the same rationale given for claim 15. The citations of the elements claimed and taught are listed below.

With respect to claim 17,

Mohi as modified discloses the search supporting system of claim 15, wherein each search supporting device comprises (Figure 18, Mohi), means for acquiring sought person information from the center side device (page 4 paragraph 0068 – 0069, Mohi) means for storing the acquired sought person information; means for providing the acquired sought person information to a search manager (Figures 18, 19 and paragraphs 0123 – 0124, Mohi); and means for deleting the stored sought person information upon receipt of a search completion instruction input from a search manager (page 3 paragraphs 0058 and 0059, Mohi).

With respect to claim 18,

Mohi as modified discloses the search supporting system of claim 15, wherein the sought person information contains image information of a portrait information of the sought person (page 3 paragraph 0057 lines 5 – 9 and page 4 paragraph 0070, Mohi).

With respect to claim 22,

Mohi as modified discloses the search supporting system of claim 15, wherein:

- the center side device further comprises: means for managing missing flags representing loss of each search supporting device (Figures 1, 18 and 19, paragraphs 0142, 0144, Mohi); and signal transmission means for transmitting a signal instructing erasure of information to a search supporting device having a missing flag set to indicate that the search supporting device is missing (page 3 paragraphs 0058 and 0059, Mohi), and
- the search supporting devices further comprise: means for storing a search instruction and sought person information received from the center side device (Figures 1, 18 and 19, paragraphs 0123 – 0124, Mohi); means for presenting content of the stored search instruction and sought person information to the search manager (page 4 paragraph 0068 – 0069, Mohi); and means for performing erasure processing of the search instruction and sought person information to make it impossible to refer to the information if a signal instructing erasure of the stored information is received from the center side device (page 3 paragraphs 0058 and 0059, Mohi).

With respect to claim 23,

Mohi as modified discloses the search supporting system of claim 22 wherein, when accessed by at least one of the search supporting devices, the center side device refers to a missing flag corresponding to the accessing search supporting device (paragraphs 0134 – 0135, Mohi) and when the flag is set to indicate that the search supporting device is missing, transmits a signal instructing erasure of the information to that search supporting device (page 3 paragraphs 0058 and 0059, Mohi).

With respect to claim 16,

Mohi discloses a search supporting system, comprising a transmitter carried by a sought person (page 4 paragraph 0068 – 0069, Mohi), a center side device and a search supporting device possessed by every search manager (Figure 18, Mohi), wherein:

- the transmitter comprises: means for acquiring current position information (Figures 18, 19, Mohi); and means for transmitting the current position information to the center side device (Figure 18 and paragraph 0123, Mohi);
- the search supporting device comprises: means for acquiring current position information and; means for transmitting the current position information and a request for sought person information to the center side device (Figures 18, 19 and paragraphs 0123 – 0124, Mohi), and

- the center side device comprises: means for holding a plurality of items of information relating to a sought person and respective security levels in a correlated manner (page 3 paragraph 0058, Mohi);
- means for receiving current position information of a search supporting device and a request for sought person information from the search supporting device (page 6 paragraph 0098 lines 1 – 17, Mohi);
- means for calculating information on a relative positional relationship between a transmitter carried by a sought person and a search supporting device based on current position information of the search supporting device (page 6 paragraph 0087, Mohi);
- means for determining a disclosable security level based on the relative positional relationship information (page 8 paragraph 0116 lines 1 – 17, Mohi); and
- means for providing information about sought persons up to a security level set as disclosable to a requesting search supporting device based on the determination such that, as the search manager approaches closer to the sought person, sought person information having higher security levels are provided (page 8 paragraph 0116 lines 17 – 26, Mohi).

Mohi however does not explicitly disclose the security and providing information according to conditions explicitly as claimed.

Joao teaches the security and providing information according to conditions (paragraphs 0261 and 0266, Joao).

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because they are in the same field of invention, tracking and locating devices or a person.

Furthermore, the added security levels taught by Joao would protect the information regarding the person/device being accessed by an unauthorized user (paragraphs 0261 and 0266, Joao).

With respect to claim 19,

Mohi discloses a search supporting device, possessed by a search manager, comprising:

- means for detecting its own current position (page 3 paragraph 0058, Mohi);
- means for acquiring current position of a transmitter carried by a sought person (page 4 paragraph 0068 – 0069, Mohi);
- means for calculating a relative positional relationship of itself and the transmitter based on the detected own current position information and the current position of the transmitter (page 6 paragraph 0087, Mohi);
- means for receiving and storing a plurality of items of information relating to sought persons from a center side together with respective security level attributes (page 3 paragraph 0058, Mohi); and
- means for determining disclosable security levels according to the calculated relative positional relationship (page 8 paragraph 0116 lines 1 – 17, Mohi) and providing to a search manager information, among stored information

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relating to sought persons such that, as the search manager approaches closer to the sought person, sought person information having higher security levels are provided (page 8 paragraph 0116 lines 17 – 26, Mohi).

Mohi however does not explicitly disclose the security and providing information according to conditions explicitly as claimed.

Joao teaches the security and providing information according to conditions (paragraphs 0261 and 0266, Joao).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of data processing at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of cited references because they are in the same field of invention, tracking and locating devices or a person.

Furthermore, the added security levels taught by Joao would protect the information regarding the person/device being accessed by an unauthorized user (paragraphs 0261 and 0266, Joao).

Conclusion

8. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Navneet K. Ahluwalia whose telephone number is 571-272-5636.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alam T. Hosain can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Navneet

Navneet K. Ahluwalia
Examiner
Art Unit 2166

Dated: 08/28/2007

M. A. Hosain
HOSAIN ALAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER